



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2004 AGENDA

☒ General Waiver

SUBJECT

Request by **Gilroy Unified School District** to waive *Education Code* (EC) Section 37202, the equity length of time requirement, to allow a full day kindergarten at three of the districts eight elementary schools, **Las Animas, Rod Kelley, and Rucker Elementary Schools.**

Waiver Number: 19-5-2004

☒ **Action**

☐ **Consent**

RECOMMENDATION

☐ **Approval** ☒ **Approval with conditions** ☐ **Denial**

For one year with the condition that the district submits an evaluation of the kindergarten pilot program before a renewal is considered.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The State Board of Education has previously approved similar waivers.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

The Gilroy Unified School District requests an equity length of time waiver in order to implement an extended day kindergarten at three of their eight schools, Las Animas Elementary, Rod Kelley Elementary, and Rucker Elementary Schools. The district and the Gilroy Teachers Association formed a joint committee to study and design an extended day kindergarten program. The purpose of increasing the instructional day for these students is to improve academic performance.

These three schools will be offering 298 instructional minutes to their kindergarteners, an increase of 98 minutes daily. One of the reasons that these three schools were selected is that they had space to accommodate the extended day kindergarten but also to help the school improve their academic success by enhancing the kindergarten program.

The district has an open enrollment policy providing parents with the opportunity to change the enrollment of their children at one of these schools. All of the parents in the district were notified about the pilot program by letter at the beginning of the school year as well as the school site councils being notified. The district has also adopted EC sections 8970-8974 to establish the Early Primary Program at their August 5, 2004 board meeting.

Therefore, the department recommends approval for one year with the condition that the district submit an evaluation of the extended day program before a renewal will be considered.

Authority for Waiver: *Education Code* (EC) Section 33050

Period of request: 8/30/2004 to 6/10/2005

Local board approval date(s): 5/13/2004

Public hearing held on date(s): 5/13/2004

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on date(s): 4/20/04

Name of bargaining unit/representative(s) consulted: Michelle Nelson, President
GTA

Position of bargaining unit(s) (choose only one):

☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Oppose

Comments (if appropriate):

Public hearing advertised by (choose one or more):

☐ posting in a newspaper ☒ posting at each school ☐ other (specify)

Advisory committee(s) consulted: Parents notified by letters of the extended day kindergarten opportunity. The school site councils informed after the start of school.

Objections raised (choose one): ☒ None ☐ Objections are as follows:

Date(s) consulted: August 30, 2004 (parents) and first meetings of site councils in Fall of 2004

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

The district will absorb any costs incurred.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Action Item: Some documentation is available for web viewing. Waiver forms and other hard copy documents are available for viewing at the Waiver Office or State Board Office.